



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR
DIRECTOR, TORAH INITIATIVES,
OU ISRAEL

This coming week, we will celebrate *Rosh Chodesh Nisan*, which means that just two weeks later we will be gathering together to rejoice at our *Pesach Seder* tables. Sadly, far too many Jews across the globe will approach these next two weeks leading up to the *yom tov* of *Pesach*, as a time of stress, aggravation and discomfort, rather than as an opportunity for renewal and re-invigoration.

The *Shabbat* preceding *Rosh Chodesh Nisan*, is known as *Shabbat HaChodesh*. The special *maftir* segment which is read on this *Shabbat*, records the very first *mitzvah* given to the Jewish people. It instructs us in the *mitzvah* of *Kiddush HaChodesh*, introducing us to the concept of *Rosh Chodesh*. These verses also instruct us in the basic laws of *Pesach*, and of preparing the *Korban Pesach*.

Parshat HaChodesh begins with the familiar verse:

HaChodesh Hazeh Lachem Rosh Chodashim, Rishon Hu Lachem L'Chodshei HaShana- This month shall be for you the beginning of the months, it shall be for you the first of the months of the year...

The *Sefat Emet*, the *Gerrer Rebbe zy'a*,

points out that our verse teaches us that *Am Yisrael* follows the lunar based calendar, while the other nations follow the solar calendar. This comes to teach us a sacred message about the strength and eternal nature of *Am Yisrael*. The nations of the world who align themselves with the solar calendar, are able to traverse life successfully when things seem “sunny,” but when life suddenly gets darker, they begin to struggle and lose faith. *Am Yisrael*, whose calendar is aligned with the moon, is eternal. Our collective strength of character enables us to face even the periods of darkness that may sometimes seem like a long, drawn out night, with *emuna* and perseverance!

In *Sefer Ohr Gedalyahu*, Rabbi Gedalia Schorr *ztvk'l*, offers yet another beautiful insight as to the significance of this opening *pasuk*:

“The redemption begins with this parsha of HaChodesh Hazeh Lachem, the galut began when a new king arose upon Egypt- Vayakam Melech Chadash, that with that new King-the Egyptians oppressed the Jewish people and took from them the capacity for renewal, and once Hashem uttered the words of HaChodesh Hazeh Lachem, the redemption began, as the power of creativity and renewal was restored to the Jewish People...”

As we enter *Chodesh Nisan*, and begin to prepare ourselves for the *yom tov* of *Pesach*, the *Yom Tov* of *geula*, explains Rav Gedalia Schorr, we are once again given an opportunity to feel spiritually re-invigorated.

Similarly, the great Chasidic Master the



Birkat Avraham zy'a of Slonim offers this original insight on our verse:

“*HaChodesh Hazeh Lachem - Rosh Chodashim - HaChodesh Hazeh - this entire month - every day of this month has the sanctity and capacity of Rosh Chodesh! Rishon Hu Lachem*- The Midrash teaches us that Hashem is called Rishon. Throughout this entire month of Nisan, HaKadosh Baruch Hu reveals his presence to each and every member of Klal Yisrael...”

Yehi Ratzon, As we read Parshat HaChodesh and bentsch Rosh Chodesh Nisan this Shabbat, may we be blessed to heed these two beautiful teachings from the **Ohr Gedalyahu** and the **Birkat Avraham**, and may we be blessed to feel that restoration of the inspiration and capacity for renewal and growth that comes with feeling Hashem’s presence in our lives each and every day. *Chodesh Tov!* ■



Unique & New apartment for rent, Dubnov 1, Talbieh, luxurious building, 270 sqm, 90 sqm terraces, high-end finishes, 2 parking spots, storage



Renovated elegant apartment of 120 sqm, Rehavia/Shaa'are Chesed, Sukkah balcony, 5 rooms, elevator, full of light



Luxurious new garden apartment in Talbieh, 230 sqm, 150 sqm, private garden, fully furnished, premium finishes, 5-star hotel facilities



Magnificent 300 sqm Penthouse, 200 sqm terraces, private elevator, private roof garden, panoramic views, private swimming pool, jacuzzi

Dr Natan Silver
 MBChB, FRCS, Dip Hand Surg
Hand Surgeon
 Dual trained UK & Israel



Conservative and surgical care for hand disorders and injuries in adults and children of all ages

- Hand, wrist and thumb-base arthritis
- Joint replacement
- Hand and wrist trauma
- Injections for carpal tunnel, trigger finger, arthritis
- Second opinions



Elitemed Modiin Shaare Zedek
 0733214181 (24/6) 026666174




T&T INVESTMENTS



Tel: 054-480-4767 WA: +972-26744000
 www.real-estate-jerusalem.co.il
 deborah@realestatejerusalem.co.il